

Location and Time

The course will be offered at two locations.

1. Tennessee State University, (main campus), Nashville (*August 2-3, 2017*)
2. UT/TSU Extension Services, Agri-center International, Shelby County, Memphis (*Aug. 9-10, 2017*)

To apply:

Application for registration to the program is accepted throughout year. Complete the Application to the Continuing Education at the following link:

<http://www.tnstate.edu/continuinged/>

Office of Continuing Education

Center for Extended Education and Public Service, Tennessee State University

ContinuingEd@tnstate.edu

(615) 963-7372

- ♦ **Prior Requirement:** Science or Agriculture background is desirable, but not necessary for admission
- ♦ Applications can be submitted to Program Coordinator (Dr. Dilip Nandwani) or online (link is provided above)
- ♦ Cost: \$50, includes cost of certificate, coffee breaks, educational materials



TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture,
Human and
Natural Sciences

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Samuel Nahashon, PhD
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Organic Certification Course



TSU Organic Agriculture Research and Education

“Think. Work. Serve.”

Department of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences

www.tnstate.edu/agriculturalprog

Why should you be Certified Organic?

Becoming certified organic helps you:

- ^ Receive premium prices for your products
- ^ Access fast-growing local, regional, and international markets
- ^ Be part of local economies
- ^ Access funding and technical assistance
- ^ Market products to consumers
- ^ Help the environment via certified practices: Improve water quality, Soil health, Conserve energy, Increase biodiversity

Benefits of Organic Certification?

- ^ Organic certification verifies that your farm or handling facility complies with the USDA organic regulations.
- ^ This certification allows you to sell, label, and represent your products as organic. Farms all over the world may be certified to the USDA organic standards.



- ^ Satisfies organic certification requirement
- ^ Certification allows you to call your product "organic" and to use the USDA seal.

Program Description

The course is taught over 5 parts :

1. **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE** Definition, An overview and scope, Values of organic agriculture, Careers in organic agriculture
2. **ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND MARKETING:** Introduction, Organic certification process, Transition to organic production, Record-keeping, Inspection, Management and Marketing
3. **PLANT APPLICATIONS:** Organic seeds and seed starting techniques, Propagation, Composting, Nutrient management & Fertilizer
4. **CROP MANAGEMENT:** Soil, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Irrigation, Weed control, Tools and farm equipment
5. **PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:** Garden site selection and design, Site preparation, Planting and maintenance, High tunnels

Length of course: Two day (10hrs)

-Each successful student will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

-Receive one CEU on completion of course



Who Should Apply?

The OCP program is suited for both new science graduates and aspiring transitional or conventional farmers, agricultural professionals employed in nursery, greenhouses, extension services, private or public sectors. Some of the many professionals who may find this program beneficial are:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ◆ Farmers/Growers | ◆ Students |
| ◆ Food Handlers & Processors | ◆ Small Businesses/Entrepreneurs |
| ◆ Educators | ◆ Nursery & Greenhouse Producers |
| ◆ Natural Resource Managers | ◆ Agriculture Service Professionals |
| ◆ Extension Specialists | |

Sample
Certificate

